

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER ONE: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY

PORTUGAL: THE AFM ISSUES PLAN FOR POLITICAL RE-

ORGANIZATION

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT THE ARMEDFORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) HAS ISSUED ITS PLAN FOR RESTRUCTURING THE POLITICAL SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINKS BETWEEN IT AND PEOPLE. INSTEAD OF CHOOSING A LEFTIST BACKED MODEL THE AFM HAS OPTED FOR:

--A STRUCTURE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES AND WORKERS' COMMISSIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL; AND

--A SERIES OF "POPULAR ASSEMBLIES" FROM THE LOCAL TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

THE PLAN, IF IMPLEMENTED, WILL EFFECTIVELY CUT THE
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GROUND FROM UNDER THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND IS A BLUEPRINT FOR BYPASSING THE POLITICAL PARTIES. THE AFM'S AIM, APPARENTLY, IS A UNITARY POLITICAL ORGANIZATION AT EACH LEVEL WHICH WILL ULTIMATELY ABSORB THE PARTIES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE AFM APPEARS TO BE SEEKING A STRUCTURE WHICH IT CAN CONTROL DIRECTLY, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE

WILL BE A FORMAL ROLE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS. PERHAPS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IS THE FACT THAT THE AFM CHOSE NEITHER THE COMMUNIST NOR THE FAR-LEFT PLANS BUT DEvised ITS OWN METHOD OF CONTROL.

INR COMMENT: THE GUIDELINES APPEAR TO BE A VICTORY FOR THE "RADICAL NATIONALISTS", SUCH AS GENERAL CARVALHO AND ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO. IF FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THEY WOULD RESULT IN A BASIC RESTRUCTURING OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT THE LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEVELS. THEY ARE CERTAIN TO ENGENDER A STRONG REACTION FROM MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES BECAUSE THEY RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE PARTIES, THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, AND THE PROPOSED NATIONAL LEGISLATURE. WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ARE ALSO LIKELY TO VIEW WITH CONCERN THIS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO BYPASS THE POLITICAL PARTIES, WHICH COULD AFFECT WESTERN EUROPEAN READINESS TO ASSIST PORTUGAL IN THE FUTURE.

THE COMMUNISTS MAY WELL EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, BUT THEY ARE SURE TO BE DISAPPOINTED BY THIS OUT-RIGHT REJECTION OF THEIR CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR THE PORTUGUESE PROLETARIAT. THEY WILL NOW ACCELERATE THEIR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE AND CONTROL NEIGHBORHOOD AND WORKERS COMMISSIONS, AS WILL THE OTHER PARTIES.

2. ISRAEL

A. PARLIAMENTARIANS OPTIMISTIC ON INTERIM AGREEMENT

SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE KNESSET EXPRESSED THE VIEW TO AN EMBASSY TEL AVIV OFFICER THAT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT, IF APPROVED BY THE CABINET, WOULD CARRY IN THE KNESSET BY AT
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LEAST A MARGIN OF 60 TO 42. A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF PARTY ALIGNMENTS ON THE ISSUE SHOWS THAT:

--WITHIN THE GOVERNING COALITION ALL 53 MEMBERS OF THE LABOR ALIGNMENT WILL VOTE IN FAVOR EXCEPT FOR THE 5 RAFI MEMBERS.

--THE FOUR MEMBER INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY WILL SUPPORT AN AGREEMENT AND ALL OF THE 9-10 NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY VOTES WILL BE IN FAVOR EXCEPT THE 2 VOTE YOUTH GROUP.

--AMONG THE NON-COALITION PARTIES, THE 38 LIKUD MEMBERS

WILL VOTE AGAINST, THE AGUDA RELIGIOUS FRONT WILL PROBABLY SPLIT, AND THE PARTIES OF THE LEFT WILL EITHER ABSTAIN OR VOTE FOR.

B. ARTHUR GOLDBERG BELIEVES ISRAELI POSITION HAS SOFTENED

ARTHUR GOLDBERG TOLD AMBASSADOR TOON JULY 7 THAT AFTER MEETING WITH PM RABIN AND OTHER GOI LEADERS HE THOUGHT THE ISRAELI POSITION HAD SOFTENED. GOLDBERG:

--SAID HE EXPECTS THE GOI TO APPROVE AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SOME "COSMETIC" CHANGES AFTER ISRAEL HAD GONE THROUGH ALL THE MOTIONS OF SAVING FACE AND PROVING IT WOULD NOT NEGOTIATE AGAINST A "DEADLINE";

--WAS MILDLY CRITICAL OF THE "STYLE" OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION IN DEALING WITH ISRAEL AND CLAIMED THE "CARROT AND STICK" TECHNIQUE WOULD NOT WORK;

--SAID HE STRESSED TO RABIN AND OTHER GOI LEADERS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE US.

C. RABIN AFFIRMS POLICY ON RETENTION OF SHARM EL-SHEIKH

PM RABIN REAFFIRMED AT A JULY 6 CABINET MEETING ISRAEL'S INTENTION TO RETAIN CONTROL INDEFINITELY OVER SHARM EL-SHEIKH. HIS STATEMENT WAS PROMPTED BY THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELI MEDIA HAD FIRST MISQUOTED HIM AND THEN
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CRITICIZED HIM FOR MODIFYING GOI POLICY ON SHARM WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE CABINET.

3. NIGERIA: OCCUPATION OF THE EMBASSY ANNEX

EMBASSY LAGOS REPORTS THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY IYALLA HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THE TROOPS OCCUPYING THE ANNEX WILL BE REMOVED AND THAT NORMAL MISSION OPERATIONS MAY BE RESUMED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. IYALLA TERMED THE OCCUPATION "UNFORTUNATE" AND APOLOGIZED THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO RESPOND SOONER.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT COMMISSIONER OF WORKS AND HOUSING BRIGADIER OBSANJO, WHO ORDERED THE OCCUPATION, ACTED ON HIS OWN AND WITHOUT INFORMING IYALLA IN ADVANCE, PERHAPS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE HIS POSITION OR THAT OF THE MILITARY VIS-A-VIS THE CIVILIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

A LATE REPORT FROM EMBASSY LAGOS INDICATES THAT THE NIGERIAN TROOPS EVACUATED THE EMBASSY ANNEX AT 2105 GMT JULY 9.

4. HUSSEIN ANNOYED WITH CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION
TO AIR DEFENSE SALE

IN A MEETING WITH CONGRESSWOMAN HELEN MEYNER JULY 8
IN AQABA, KING HUSSEIN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN
OVER CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE US AIR DEFENSE
SALE TO JORDAN. HUSSEIN SAID THAT AFTER MANY DISCUSSIONS
OF THE SALE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY, LATE
HOUR CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONING WAS "MOST ANNOYING".

PM RIFAI TOLD THE CONGRESSWOMAN THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL
OPPOSITION REMINDED HIM OF AN ARAB PROVERB: "IT IS LIKE
A FLY IN ONE'S SOUP, WHICH WON'T KILL YOU BUT ONLY
WANT TO MAKE YOU THROW UP". THE CONGRESSWOMAN SAID
SHE WOULD SUPPORT JORDAN ON THE ISSUE AND WAS PERSONALLY
OPTIMISTIC THAT HOUSE DELIBERATIONS WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY
THREATEN THE AIR DEFENSE SALE.

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5. ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ITALIAN POLITICAL
SITUATION

AS THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE CONTINUES WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRAT PARTY (DC), EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT PRIME
MINISTER MORO HAS OPENED A SERIES OF CONSULTATIONS WITH
CENTER-LEFT LEADERS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM CAPABLE OF KEEP-
ING HIS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY TOGETHER OVER THE NEAR TERM.
THE SOCIALISTS MEANWHILE:

--ARE STANDING PAT ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL UNTIL THE
RESULTS OF THE JULY 19 DC NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ARE
KNOWN; BUT

--ARE MOVING QUICKLY TO FORM LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS BASED
ON THE WIDEST POSSIBLE MAJORITIES, INCLUDING ALLIANCES
WHEREVER POSSIBLE WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS HAVE NO INTEREST IN SEEING
THE MORO GOVERNMENT GO UNDER JUST YET. THE THICKEST
MINEFIELDS THROUGH WHICH MORO MUST NOW PASS ARE IN
DC TERRITORY, WHERE THE EFFORT TO OUST FANFANI MAY STILL
PROVOKE EXPLOSIONS WHICH COULD BRING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT.

6. INDIAN PARLIAMENT TO BE CONVOKED

THE INDIAN PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT PARLIAMENT (LOK
SABHA) WILL BE CONVOKED ON JULY 21 FOR ONE WEEK. THE
GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY SEEKING PARLIAMENTARY
RATIFICATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, WHICH EMBASSY
NEW DEHLI SOURCES BELIEVE WILL BE EASILY OBTAINED. THE

GOVERNMENT ALSO ISSUED NEW RESTRICTIONS ON ADMISSION TO THE
PARLIAMENT, WHICH THE EMBASSY SEES AS A MOVE TO CONTROL
PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF NEWS ON THE SESSION'S ACTIVITIES.

NOTE: INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. INGERSOLL

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